

The Durant Weekly News

By E. M. EVANS

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FEEDING RATS AND SPREADING DISEASE

Good Morning! Have you fed your rat? We all must do it, you know. Every man, woman and child in this land of the free and the home of the brave must hustle out and provide a dollar and eighty cents worth of food every year to support the rats which infest our cities and towns and barns. An army of two hundred thousand able-bodied men are employed the year round in producing what rats consume and destroy.

But that is not half. The loss from what rats devour is far outdone by the ravages of the diseases they help to spread. The greatest scourge which has ever afflicted the human race is carried by rats. This plague killed twenty-five millions of people in Europe at one time a few centuries ago.

Several of our modern, "civilized" diseases are also directly traced to them as carriers. They multiply at a prodigious rate, and once gaining the run of a town require heroic efforts to exterminate them. If they are bad in your town, you cannot get busy too soon, and though there are but few of them now, now is none too soon to stop their devastations.

How? First of all, by building rat-proof houses and store buildings. These cost somewhat more than the other kind, but they amply pay out in the end.

After the rats have come, trap them, poison them, or spread disease among them to pay them back for the disease they spread among humans. Scientists have discovered bacterial virus which, once started among them, carries them off.

This last named plan may not be feasible for smaller centers of population. Poison may prove dangerous for humans and domestic pets. But the rat is within everybody's reach and is effective. Organize the children. Offer bounties on rat tails. Go out the business wholesale; allow no retailing. Is it not time to get busy in our town?

ARMS VS. REASON

"They say we have a military budget of five billion francs," says Clemenceau of France. "I do not know whether the figure is correct or not, but I do know that I have seen two German invasions and I do not want to try a third, and I eagerly wish our friends in America to understand this feeling."

Americans think they do understand the feeling. But possibly Americans, being at a distance and less directly influenced by fear and prejudice, understand a little better than Clemenceau and his fellow countrymen that anything in the way of swashbuckling or excessive armament is a waste of money.

It is not a question of what France deserves. Americans agree that she deserves all that she can possibly get out of Germany, and far more. But it is a question of calm reason and conciliation as an international policy. Americans are inclined to think that there is more protection in that than in big armies.

COAL AND COFFINS

"Carload of Coffins arrives at Spangler" was the news a few days ago from the scene of the latest mine disaster in Pennsylvania. As a companion picture there was a description of women, waiting in the rain all night at the mouth of the mine for their dead to be brought up.

It is just a little while since the country was shocked by a worse mine disaster in the west.

"Always disasters. It is part of the mining game. Miners expect it. Those who 'go down to the sea in ships' face no such perils as those who go down in the earth for the fuel and ore demanded by our industrial civilization. When danger comes, the sailor can at least breathe clean air and face the light and struggle to save himself. The miner dies like a trapped rat."

These are facts that must not be ignored in any consideration of mining problems. Mining is more than muscular effort and hours and pay. Men in a necessary industry deserve recompense for what the industry compels them to endure.

SOMETHING WRONG

"Big Ben" Garner, of Boston, 78 years old, poor and worried, is not able to work at his trade any more. He wants to be taken care of for the rest of his life. And he will be taken care of, at the public expense.

Reading that, you know that "Big Ben" is not a carpenter, bricklayer, blacksmith or workman bank clerk. His trade was thieving. He has spent fifty years in jail, chiefly for petty larceny.

Too old and slow to beg and steal successfully, he committed a minor crime and asked the judge to sentence him for life. He will go to prison, where a warm bed, sufficient food, medical care and clothes will be all free.

But what will history say about a civilization that would take care of an old, worn-out man whose trade was stealing, and wouldn't take care of him if he had spent his life working for the public welfare.

OUR FOREIGN DEBTS

It is said that President Harding would be glad to give a prize for a practical suggestion for the collection of foreign debts to the United States. While no definite reward has been offered by the White House, there is no doubt that a workable debt program would deserve rich compensation. The president is reported as overwhelmed with gratuitous generalities on the adjustment of these debts, but when he tries to pin any of his advisers down to a concrete program he finds a notable disinclination or inability.

It is always easier to criticize than to make constructive suggestions. It is easier to indulge in generalities on any many-sided question than to find some one feasible way.

Even when some fairly workable plan is proposed by one faction there is always the little problem of the other faction which refuses to co-operate because it has a perfectly good scheme of its own and wants the honor and the glory which will accrue in putting it over.

It might pay any public official to actually offer a prize in such a connection. The effort to earn it would teach the critical citizen much about the real difficulties of diplomacy.

WIVES NEVER GROW OLD

When a man begins to get gray hairs his wife begins to let it be known that she is considerably his junior. And that is as it should be.

Knowledge comes from experience, and experience comes with age, it is true, but we can never afford to admit that the feminine member of the matrimonial firm is "getting along in years."

Our wives must never grow old.

THINK RIGHT, OR DON'T THINK

Some people spend a lot of time in bemoaning their fate and damning their luck.

The same amount of time and energy, if spent in some useful pursuit or in endeavoring to locate a profitable occupation would preclude even the possibility of even thinking of luck or fate.

Think of the right side of life—or don't think.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Once there was a time when brotherly love was known, when a spirit of fairness was in evidence, when a willingness to live and let live prevailed.

But that was yesterday, and yesterday is forever of the past.

We dream of the days that were, but make no effort to restore them to the time that is.

We pity the ancients because of the many things that they did not possess, and the Lord judges us because of the many things that we reject.

It is life, as we make it, and for which we must pay.

WOMEN BEAUTIFUL

Dr. Pabst, of New York, a skin specialist, advises women "to make use of cosmetics and rouge and enjoy themselves."

That is wise advice for the skin specialist, good for his profit. But it isn't good for women.

Cosmetics clog the pores of the skin, and that isn't the worst of it. When a woman can buy a good complexion, she can neglect care of health that produces a good complexion.

It would be better for women in the next generation if women of today had to rely on health for their good looks, not on cosmetics.

CONTROL YOUR TONGUE

Perhaps you have noticed the fellow who is continually making a noise with his mouth.

He rambles along for an hour and at the end of that time nobody even remembers what he has said.

Wise men talk to a purpose. Others should not talk.

There may be less complaint this winter about the smoke nuisance.

Many hands make light work, provided they don't make light of work.

Politicians are like balloons; they come down when the hot air gives out.

It is all right to talk back to your wife, provided you don't let her hear you.

If you want to think well of your neighbors, don't get to know them too well.

Lloyd George can now sit back and tell them how much better he used to run things.

Twenty years ago we were discussing prohibition, and we are practicing it now.

If he is smaller than you are, he is a liar; if he is larger than you are he is mistaken.

Those who say prohibition does not prohibit are merely talking to keep up their courage.

We know too unfortunate men. One has a wooden leg and the other has a wooden head.

The reason many of us do not speak in public is because we have heard others try it.

What the country needs now is something that will make bobbed hair grow rapidly.

A thing may be difficult, but it will never be done by the man who says it can't be done.

And yet some of these people who are called cranks cannot be turned from their ways.

Few of us know how to pronounce the word Fascisti, but all of us have great respect for it.

Congress is in session again, and now you have something to blame it on when things go wrong.

And aren't some people ridiculous when they ridicule others.

You can't keep a good man down, says the Greenville Piedmont, nor a good-for-nothing man up.

General Pershing may soon know how it feels to be unpopular. He is going to write his memoirs.

Remember the good old days when mother used old flour sacks to make underwear for the children?

Several Buffalo city officials are serving sentences for grafting. Serves them right for getting caught.

And while we are cleaning up the movies, how about trying to improve the people who go to see them.

You can't judge people by their names. A Mrs. Hovel, of Kansas City, lost a \$1,000 diamond ring.

This woman who married the ex-kaiser the other day should have worn lemon blossoms, don't you think?

Girls may wear knickerbockers if they want to, but if they do they need not expect us to tip our hats to them.

Europe had troubles before this country was discovered, but did not have this country to blame for them.

You can always tell who is boss around the house when you see father sitting on the front porch with his shoes off.

The laziest girl we have yet heard of is the one who called her mother from the kitchen to wind the phonograph for her.

The Egyptians may not be making the best use of their freedom, but at any rate they have not gone to war over it, as the Irish have done.

You have heard of lame ducks in politics, of course, but you may now refer to Congresswoman Robertson as a lame chicken.

President Harding's letter commending the record of the last Congress merely confirms the impression that the President is easy to please.

But, in view of the frightful looking stockings they are beginning to wear, we are rather glad long skirts are coming back in style.

Senator Tom Watson of Georgia, says he doesn't belong to the Ku Klux. Would you consider that a knock, or a boost for the K. K.?

New York's wealthiest retired bootlegger has gone to Italy to live, probably attracted by the boot-leg shape of the country.

A contemporary says "fat legs are indicative of great brain power." This sounds as if it might mean something, but we don't quite get it.

A man drove a horse through the streets the other day. It attracted a great deal of attention. There used to be lots of horses around here.

"The hour has come," declared Senator Gourju in the French Senate the other day, "for us no longer to be afraid of women." Wonder if he hiccupped when he said it?

"Prominent woman wants a divorce because she doesn't know where her husband is," says a headline. If all women were to get divorces on that ground, there would be a lot of free men in this country.

The fact that American citizens bought eighty billion German marks shows that Mr. Barnum was ultra-conservative in his estimate of the sucker birth-rate.

That 400 per cent dividend declared by the Standard Oil Company will be of help to the stockholders in paying for their gasoline at the increasing prices.

The ex-kaiser says he was "brought up with the Bible." The Bible, however, appears to have survived the experience with visible injury.

That shipping route to be opened by the Soviet government through the Arctic Sea will probably turn out to be a frost.

A railroad official says there is too much reckless railroading these days. The traveling public would prefer to see more reckless railroading.

That there is not a great deal in a name is shown by the fact that the aviator who flew from the Atlantic to the Pacific in 24 hours was Lieut. Doolittle.

The children are back at school, and will be expected to unlearn a lot of things that they learned from their fathers and mothers during vacation.

"The average woman has a vocabulary of only eight hundred words," says an educational expert. But half that many will do if she gets mad.

Somehow, the public hasn't been so much interested in moving pictures since Will Hays announced that he was going to clean them up.

It was bad enough for the boll weevil to destroy the cotton crop, but think what will happen if it tackles the peanut crop.

There would be less danger of future wars if the nations should agree that diplomats would be the first to be drafted.

An old-fashioned girl is one who will buy a union suit when she hasn't got a pair of silk stockings to her name.

THE OFFICE CAT

WISDOM? Blessed are they into whose dust God never moulded the wander lust. For the sweat from the brow of the men who roam, will turn to gold for the stay at home. And he who goes where the long trail calls will spend his life in overall. But there are times, I will admit, when all my chores I long to quit and cast aside my heavy load and join the hobo on the road.

The way to success is—Turn to the right and keep going.

"Can dogs find their way home from a long distance?" asks Bill Spivens. Its according to the dog. If its one you want to get rid of, he can find his way back home from Alaska. If it's a good one, he's apt to get lost if he goes around the corner.

SOME JOB

"John, your face looks terribly battered up," said the teacher to John aged seven.

"You haven't been fighting on the way to school, have you she inquired.

"No," said John, "we moved yesterday and I had to carry the cat."

In the opinion of Bill Spivens the press agent of a black pugilist announces the day before the fight that his man is in the pink of condition just to make the opponent feel blue.

UP ON HIS NATURE STUDY What is this?" asked the teacher, holding up the picture of a zebra.

"A horse in a bathing suit," replied Tommy Simpkins.

A man has no business in taking unto himself a wife unless he has the disposition to submit to being bossed, at least part of the time.

EASTERN STANDARD

"Johnny, don't you know it's Sunday? You mustn't play marbles out there on the sidewalk. Go into the back yard if you want to play."

"All right, mother, but what day of the week is it in the back yard?"

SEE THROUGH THIS?

She—"What would you call a man who hid behind a woman's skirts?"

He—"A magician."

A CURSORY RHYME

Hy Diddle-iddle, Was fat in the middle. So he bought a bike to reduce. He rode and he rode around Till he gained eight fifty pounds. But he wore the bike down; It lost ten pound. Now to be sure, ain't that the deuce?

IN NOSEPAINT GULCH

"Now don't get skeered if a man reaches for his hip pocket. He may be gonna offer you his bottle."

"I'd rather face a shot from the gun."

MAKING IT EASY

A lawyer earning \$3,000 a year was insured for \$25,000. He got shipwrecked and was miraculously rescued. Reaching land, after the news of his death had been broadcasted, he gabbled to his partner:

"Saved. Try to break the news gently to my wife."

Bill Spivens says you will find the prisons full of fellows who tried to take the short cut to success.

Insanity is said to be akin to love; but a man in love doesn't care if he is crazy.

JUST SO

"We're getting a lot of printed advice telling us not to waste coal."

"We can burn the advice."

A FRIEND TOLD US HE WAS DETOURING

last week.

FOUND OUT

An old Durant lady, in Dallas for the first time in her life, saw a glaring sign on the front of a high building, which read: "The Brown Manufacturing Company."

"Lawks a mercy," she remarked to her nephew, "I've heard of Browns, all my life, but I never knew they made 'em."

Bill Spivens says distance lends enchantment to the debt.

Health to all flivver drivers: "Don't expect a 6-ton truck to get out of your way."

A shipment of monkeys has been sent to Harvard for scientific purposes. Monkeys are great imitators, and before long we expect to hear of one of them marrying a chorus girl.

TERRIBLE BUSINESS RIVALRY IN KANSAS TOWN Concordia, Kan., has a man whose proudest accomplishment is that of beating his business competitor to the postoffice every morning.

Bill Spivens thinks the fate of the Missouri man who dropped dead while washing dishes for his wife should be a warning to other husbands.

A fell coal bin maketh a glad heart. Has anyone a glad heart.

"The doctor generally comes in a hurry."

"He knows if he delays you might need him."

RUDE RURAL RHYMES

Advice To Maidens The pumpkin is a noble vine from tropic lands below the line. Among our rows of corn it runs and lifts broad leaves to rains and suns. Its many fruits are big and bold and fill the eye with autumn gold. But though they lie till frost congeal them, no boy will ever try to steal them. They have a pretty yellow hide, but kids all know they're punk inside. The watermelon's fruit is green as if not wishful to be seen, but when some hopeful farmer knows it, and as it nears the ripening date will strive to swipe is soon or late. Yea, they will come and take a chance, though shotguns salt them in the pants. O gentle maiden do not fail to get the moral of this tale. We men, of course, pick sweethearts comely—I'm glad that Hannah is not homely. But though you use your time and are to doll up every outward part, be like the melon sweet at heart. Mere outward beauty like the pumpkin's will win you only fools and bumpkins. You'll stay within your own home fence, no Lochinvar will steal you thence. But if you cherish from your birth some true ideal of modest worth, not all your beauty's nyour skin, but fresh and pure and sweet within, through fence and bolt and bar and latch some youth will break into the patch. He'll say "Sweet maiden, come be mine" and pluck you from the parent vine. Yea, though you be true child of Eve's and seek to hide among the leaves, while love and joy within you risen, your heart will answer "Yes, I'm hisn."

—BOB ADAMS

FEDERAL BUDGET FOR YEAR IS TO BE \$3,180,843,235

President Harding has presented to Congress the budget for the expenses of the Government for the fiscal year, with the total estimated sum of \$3,180,843,235, which he said is a half a billion dollars less than the year before. A great part of the Government's expenses is needed for the retirement of war debts, which cannot be decreased, the President told Congress.

BROTHERS ELECTROCUTED

Two brothers were electrocuted at Oklahoma City Monday, one dying in an effort to save the other.

While George Castellberry, a painter, 28 years old, was removing an electric light bulb from a socket he came in contact with a live wire and was almost instantly killed. His younger brother, William, 18 years old, seeing his plight, attempted to pull him from the wire and also was electrocuted.

Both were unmarried.

SCRIPTURE

Section 5.—Matthew 5:27-32. TRADITION SUPERSEDED BY CHRIST'S LAW

27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

29 And if thy eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

30 And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

31 It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:

32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery; and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.

VARSITY GIVES SMALL-POX KNOCK-OUT BLOW

Returning from the Thanksgiving holidays, the university of Oklahoma took on the aspects of an army camp Monday morning when the students filed in line at the administration building to have their certificates of vaccination officially stamped by the registrar in compliance with an order issued by the board of regents last week requiring all students and faculty members to be vaccinated before returning to the post holiday classes. When the whistle at the engineering building screamed out its warrant that vacation was over at eight o'clock, the student line had already formed in front of the registrar's office down the winding stairs out on the oval and rapidly grew past the education building, extending to the law building. No new cases of small pox have been reported in a week, and all patients in the hospital are reported convalescent, so that with this universal response to vaccination, both at the university and in the city, marks the end of the small pox infection in the university city.

VACCINATE FOR ROUPE Vaccination of hens for roupe is a new treatment which W. B. Will, farm demonstration agent, is working with success in Delaware county. The cost of vaccination is two cents per hen.

Yes; a four-flusher soon hands in the discard.

"Dress up for the Holidays"



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